

Houston Bikeway Program

Bikeway News

Summer 2003

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Use Your Head

Did you know that if you ride your bike your chances of falling are great? And did you know that if you fall, the chances of hitting your head are greater? So what is your best protection against these odds? A bike helmet.

A helmet protects your head by creating a cushion on impact. It provides protection in the areas that need it most. A helmet is made to protect the back, front, top and side of your head. They come in fun colors and designs. Choose a simple style without extrusions that can catch or snag as you fall.

What should you do to make the best use of your helmet? Make sure your helmet fits snuggly and adjust it so that it sits flat across the head, not too far forward or too far back. To keep it balanced on your head, use the side strap adjustments. The side buckles should be just below each ear. The neck strap should be snug but not tight. Test it by fitting two fingers horizontally between your chin and your strap.

Learn more. Visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute at www.bhsi.org or ask the folks at your local bike shop.



Houston Bike Patrol and bike riders at City Hall on Bike to Work Day 2003.

Houston Bikes To Work In 2003

Held on May 16, 2003 in recognition of National Bike to Work Day, the Houston Bike to Work Day celebration was a great success. This year's festivities included three organized rides with over 100 riders and a Bike Rally at City Hall attended by over 200 participants. Representatives from government and private sector organizations were on hand at the rally to promote safe cycling and distribute information on health and fitness activities, bike

maintenance, bike registrations, bikeway maps and alternative commute solutions.

For more information, visit www.houstonbikeways.org and click EVENTS.

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Houston's Bikeways

On-street - 255 miles
- Includes bike lanes, bike routes and shared lanes

Off-street - 10 miles
- Includes bayou trails,
rails-to-trails, and park
trails

Figures do not include 80 miles of recreation and hike and bike trails in city parks.

The Bike Team

Have you noticed more people riding their bikes? Do you see more bike trails and bike routes? It is all part of a joint effort made possible by the work of many hands.

The City of Houston is completing the Houston Bikeway Network. But the City is not alone. Harris County is building bike trails throughout the area as well.

The Texas Department of
Transportation's Houston District
manages federal funds that are
available to Houston for projects
that enhance transportation and
reduce congestion. They also
construct these projects. The
Houston-Galveston Area Council
incorporates new projects into the
Transportation Improvement Plan
for the region and awards federal
funds for projects that reduce traffic
congestion and improve air quality.

And Metro, under their mobility



(Left to right): Hamid Youssefi (City); Dan Raine (HGAC); Mike Wheeler (Klotz); Maher Saied (City); Connie Clark (County); Teri Kaplan-Heacock (TxDOT); Lilibeth Andre (City); Regina Garcia (Volunteer); Twilight Freedman (Volunteer); Rita Balchus (City); Brad Brown (Klotz); and Ben Bansal (City).

plan, is including bike racks on all their buses to help with longdistance travel by cyclists utilizing combined trips for long distance travel. They also plan to allow cyclists on the light rail system during off-peak hours and already have bike racks at most transit centers and park and rides.

These functions by various organizations are what make it all come together.

The City's network includes more than 265 miles of existing bikeways in Houston. Coordination with other area agencies is critical to create a regional transportation network that provides connectivity from Katy to the Houston Ship Channel. And one day, maybe even from the Woodlands, Kingwood or Bush Intercontinental Airport to Galveston Island.

It takes a team of dedicated government officials, cycling and transportation professionals, and forward-thinking planners and engineers, to create a transportation system that integrates into the existing infrastructure and provides ways to travel by bike in the Houston area, today and tomorrow.

Have you tried a bikeway lately? Join the fun. Get fit while you travel to your destination and enjoy the facilities that are being built to increase your options to travel on a bicycle.

To view a map of the Houston bikeway network go to www.houstonbikeways.org and click MAPS.



Corporate Winners

Two new events made the 2003 Bike to Work Day an event with a broader reach. Under the new Corporate Partner Challenge, the annual bike ride to City Hall also included a bike ride to the Texas Medical Center (TMC) and a bike ride to Helwett Packard (HP).

The challengers organized events that echoed bike awareness and fitness with healthy refreshments for the riders. Participants were able to register their bikes and learn about bike parking locations.

Jacob Hernandez, HP Cycling
Team Captain, said, "We were glad
to participate. The HP Cycling
Club has about 300 members
and we participate in cycling
events year-round. This was a
good opportunity to generate bike
commuting awareness in our area."
The HP Cycling Club has been in
existence since 1998. "We had a
great time tying in Bike to Work
Day to Employee Wellness at HP,"

said Amy Vanzandt-Hodge, event organizer and cheerleader.

At TMC, the Bicycle Safety and Mobility Committee sponsored the event and provided bike rack maps and bike safety guidelines on CD. "The Texas Medical Center is pleased to have the opportunity to participate with the City of Houston," said Senior Vice President, Kathryn Stream, Ph.D. "The Committee includes members from TMC institutions, the City of Houston, the County, the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Metro. We work together to educate TMC bikers on appropriate rules and regulations. We want TMC to continue to be a safe place for bikers."

When the numbers were in, the Texas Medical Center tallied the most bike riders and Hewlett Packard came in at a close second place. Thank you partners, for helping the City of Houston Bikeway Program make Bike To Work Day a bigger event this year.



Palmetto and trumpet vine along the Harrisburg-Sunset Trail.

Cyclist Demographics

Who rides the bikeways? Why do they ride? What kind of bikes do they use? How far do they ride?

These and other questions will soon be answered. The Houston Bikeway Program has developed a bicyclist survey to gather information from cyclists that travel by bike for fun or transportation. The bicyclist survey is posted at www.houstonbikeways.org.

In addition to the survey, The Houston Police Department Bike Patrol Administration will be conducting traffic counts at eight trail locations to measure use. This information will be used for transportation planning and help improve the bikeways. The information will also be used to develop education efforts and to help plan the increase of bike patrols for upcoming projects.

So when you're out on the trail, smile! You could be one of those cyclists helping us to improve the bikeways. Visit our website, answer the survey and be counted.

The Houston Bikeway Program website can be found at www.houstonbikeways.org.



(Left to right) Council Member Carol Alvarado; Jacob Hernandez, HP Bike Team Captain; Mayor Lee P. Brown; Angela Hall, Texas Medical Center.

	Bikeway Project Status									
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Project	Mies C	of Control	of the	Are or other	PRODU	Saper .	SHROW	SOOT WELL	y.	Constanting to
West White Oak Bayou Trail	4.86		1							
Herman Brown Park Phase 1	2.55									
Harrisburg Sunset Raits to Trails Phase 1	5.29									
CBO Access On-street North Segment Phase 1	26.83									
CBO Access On-street South Segment Phase 1	36.99									
TMC/Greenway/Galleria North Segment Phase 1	6.68									
TMC/Oreenway/Galleria West Segment Phase 1	29.96									
TMC/Greenway/Galleria East Segment Phase 1	26.04									
West Houston On-street Phase 1	27.8				100					
North Houston On-street Phase 1	41.27									
Buffalo Baou Trail - North	0.3									
Narrow Street Segment Connectors	7									
Southeast On-street Bikeway	49									
Harrisburg Sunset Raits to Traits - Phase 2	0.									
CBO Access On-street - Phase 2	8*									
TMC Access On-street - Phase 2	13.17*									
TMC Access On-street - Phase 2 (Holly Half)	4.55									
West Houston On-street - Phase 2	1.2									
North Houston On-street - Phase 2	5.25									
Herman Brown Park - Phase 2	2.80									
West Brays Bayou Trail West	4.55								5 1	
Herritage Corridor, Bayou Trail West	0.									
Hentage Comdor, Bayou Trails East, Segment I	0.									
Hendage Comdor, Bayou Trails East, Segment III	5.25*									
Buffalo Bayou Trail (Shepherd to Sabine)	4.83									
Buffalo Bayou Heritage Corridor Trail	2.00									
MKT/SP Rails to Trails	6.53									
Halls Bayou Trail	3.50									
Little White Oak Bayou (Phase I)	0.60									
Westchase District Trail - North	3.91									
Columbia Tap Rail to Trail	3.09									
W. White Oak Bayou Trail Extension	2.96									
Ksegans Bayou Trait	3.75									
Columbia Tap - Union Station	1.07									10
Herntage Corridor, Bayou Traits East, Segment II	1.17									
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News Briefs

- been completed. This segment connects Brays Bayou with the existing on-street bikeway along S. 70th Street. This bike route leads to the Sherman route and connects to the Harrisburg-Sunset Trail. An enjoyable segment along the perimeter of Gus Wortham Park, the trail provides lush natural landscapes and connectivity to an area with
- a number of schools in the East End. Ride this loop to the Houston Ship Channel along Buffalo Bayou and enjoy a break at Hidalgo Park just off the Sunset Trail.
- Program and the Houston
 Bike Patrol Administration
 participated with the Parks
 and Recreation Department
 to present a 3 hour course
 during the Summer Enrichment
 Program Training event to
 train over 30 Recreation

- Specialists to teach Bike Safety Demonstrations. The course included information on bike safety education activities, a bikeway network overview, and an introduction to cycling as a sport. With this training, Recreation Specialists received the tools that will enable them to demonstrate hands-on activities that teach bicycle safety and good riding habits. These techniques will allow participants to gain an appreciation of cycling as a sport, a means of transportation and a vehicle for fun.
- Cycling as a competitive sport can be practiced at the Alkek Velodrome, the City of Houston's premiere cycling track. The Velodrome is located in Cullen Park at 18203 Groeschke, off of Barker Cypress. Track bikes are required and available for rent. Sign up for classes. For more information and schedules, visit www.houstonalkekvelodrome.org.
- The Brays Bayou Trail will be closed for construction between Fannin and S. Braeswood. Visit our website for details and click MAPS.



City of Houston Bikeway Program

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